Call for Proposals: Fall 2016 Learning Communities

Proposals for Fall 2016 Learning Communities (LCs) for first-semester students are being accepted October 1-November 13, 2015.* Faculty and teaching staff on both campuses are invited to submit proposals using the following link: www.kennesaw.edu/learningcommunity

Learning Communities Program Mission
The mission of the Learning Communities Program at Kennesaw State University is to promote the academic success and retention of students through programmatic structures that enhance student learning, personal development, and overall satisfaction with the university experience.

Learning Communities Model
Faculty-driven. Two or more general education or lower level major courses are linked together by a common theme or academic major/interest. The same 25 students (or fewer) co-enroll in all courses within a learning community. LC faculty collaborate to help students make intellectual connections across disciplines.

First-Year Curriculum Requirement
Learning Communities are one way new students can meet KSU’s First-Year Curriculum Requirement. According to the KSU Undergraduate Catalog, “All first-year, full-time students entering Kennesaw State University with fewer than 15 semester hours are required to complete a first-year seminar or an academic learning community. This requirement must be satisfied during a student’s first term of enrollment at Kennesaw State University.”

LC Student Learning Outcomes
In addition to outcomes associated with the individual courses that comprise a Learning Community, the following categories of student learning outcomes will be met by students enrolled in LCs: Integrative Learning, Campus and Community Engagement, Strategies for Academic Success, and Global Learning and Engaged Citizenship.

Faculty Training/Development
Faculty and staff teaching in fall 2016 learning communities must complete a brief online training module prior to fall 2016. Ongoing faculty development is available through the LC Program, including individual and/or team consultations. Additional professional development opportunities will be communicated throughout the year.

Assessment
Assessment is conducted at the program level. LC faculty assist by encouraging students to participate in surveys (one or two) and by providing samples of student work related to learning outcomes. Student learning is also assessed at the annual Academic Extravaganza: Learning Communities Showcase and Celebration, which honors the creative and academic work of LC students and faculty.

Contact Us!
If you have questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact us! We are available to meet with individuals or groups.

Cathy Bradford, Director
cbradfo4@kennesaw.edu
470-578-6243

Hillary Steiner, Associate Director
hsteiner@kennesaw.edu
470-578-6147
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*Pointers for Your Learning Communities Proposal

- By definition, Learning Communities must contain at least two courses.
- At least one course in each Learning Community must be limited to the Learning Community students. The maximum number of students in a Learning Community is 25.
- It is possible to embed Learning Community students in large courses.
- Learning Communities may be offered at any KSU campus. Courses within individual Learning Communities must meet on the same campus.
- Proposals should include General Education courses and/or lower-level major courses) that do not have prerequisites.
- Most Learning Communities include a First-Year Seminar (FYS).* If your proposal does not include a FYS, please identify the course that will include only the LC students (≤25 students) and will serve as the “anchor” course for the Learning Community.
- If necessary, the Learning Communities Program can help you identify instructors to teach in your Learning Community; however, if you know who you plan to include on your LC instructional team, please discuss this with them when preparing your proposal.
- If you are proposing a Learning Community for a specific major, please consult with the chair and/or an academic advisor for that major to ensure that the courses included in the Learning Community meet the needs and requirements of the students.
- Please seek Chair approval before submitting your proposal.
- If you are interested in teaching in a Learning Community but do not plan to submit a proposal this year, please contact the Learning Community Program to express your interest. We will help you find a Learning Community that matches your interests and goals.

*The 3-credit hour First-Year Seminar courses include KSU 1101, KSU 1111, KSU 1121, and KSU 1200. If you are not sure which seminar to include in your Learning Community, we can help you determine the best fit. To read more about First-Year Seminars, see [www.kennesaw.edu/fyts/programs/fyseminar.php](http://www.kennesaw.edu/fyts/programs/fyseminar.php)